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The opportunities provided to me during my COSTEP with the PHX Area IHS allowed me to practically apply the education I had obtained in my Masters studies as well as expanded my knowledge of and exposure to different cultures. Emergency preparedness is at the forefront of the public health field, but also faces many challenges and difficulties due to the uncertainty of the possible scenarios. By working with the Public Health Service I was exposed to the necessary procedures

and policies that are in place in order to adequately prepare a community for a public health crisis. The contacts and access to information was a valuable experience that I believe will be beneficial in my future career.

The privilege to work with the Native American people is one of the greatest honors I have ever had. The pride these amazing people have for their traditions is one that must be preserved. For this reason I believe that the work of the Indian Health Service is a valuable service the government provides. The oppurtunity to work with and serve the Native American people is my most treasured experience of my COSTEP assignment.

